



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities & Idaho

Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Idaho received \$3.6 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Idaho Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples of projects since 2006.

- **Exploring American Identity** was a multiyear project in Idaho supported by several grants to the Idaho Humanities Council totaling \$392,890. The grants facilitated hundreds of speaker's bureau presentations throughout the state, summer institutes for teachers, traveling exhibitions on American roots music and "Journey Stories," and special grants related to Idaho's folk traditions.
- With a \$168,944 grant, the University of Idaho, Moscow, brought **100 teachers** from around the country to attend one-week summer workshops on the history of the mining industry in the American West.
- Thanks to a \$5,000 grant, the **Idaho State Historical Society** was able to conduct a preservation assessment of its collections. The collections include 50,000 cubic feet of manuscripts and archives, 500,000 photographs, and 3,100 oral histories relating to the state's political, cultural, and social history from the nineteenth century to the 1990s.
- An audiovisual consultant assessed the oral history and moving image collection on subjects such as homesteading and folk customs housed at the **Idaho State Historical Society's Public Archives and Research Library** in Boise. NEH funded the assessment with a \$5,880 grant.
- Literature professor Rochelle Johnson of the College of Idaho, Caldwell, received a \$6,000 summer stipend to complete **a biography of novelist Susan Fenimore Cooper** (1813–94).
- With a \$5,000 grant, the staff at **Mountain Home Public Library** received training in how to preserve and maintain their collection of agricultural, mining, and ranching artifacts as well as their maps and county records documenting the history of Idaho and the West.
- A public film and discussion program on the **history of jazz** came to the library at the University of Idaho, Moscow, with the help of a \$1,000 grant.
- The **Idaho Shakespeare Festival** in Boise received \$5,000 from the Idaho Humanities Council to help support the 2010 season of Shakespeareance, an educational touring program reaching about 20,000 students in schools throughout the state.
- With grants from the **Idaho Humanities Council**, musicologist Gary Eller crisscrossed the state, rediscovering, cataloging, and recording approximately two hundred folk songs pertaining to Idaho. The project has produced a CD along with a 72-page booklet on the history of 17 of those songs.
- Between 2006 and 2010, more than **160 Idaho teachers** attended summer institutes run by the Idaho Humanities Council, studying with top scholars such subjects as the history of the Supreme Court, the presidency of Abraham Lincoln, and why Mark Twain still matters.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Nationwide

NEH supports programs and projects that contribute directly and dramatically to the cultural life and historical perspective of tens of millions of Americans. Here are a few examples.

PRESERVING THE FIRST DRAFT OF HISTORY

Nothing captures the character of a community or the spirit of an era better than its newspapers. *Chronicling America*, a partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress, is digitizing millions of pages taken from newspapers dating back to the early Republic, making it possible to search the pages online for any word or phrase—at no charge.

AMERICAN VOICES

The papers of prominent Americans are a vital part of our cultural heritage, and NEH funds many projects to assemble and preserve them, including complete sets of collected papers for ten presidents from Washington to Lincoln to Eisenhower as well as public figures such as Thomas Edison, Martin Luther King Jr., George Marshall, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Mark Twain.

SUCCEEDING BY THE BOOK

Over the past forty-five years, scholars supported by Endowment grants have produced more than 7,000 books—including numerous classics such as Dumas Malone's *Jefferson and His Time*, James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and Louis Menand's *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America*—that have garnered scores of awards, including eighteen Pulitzer Prizes.

PAST AND PRESENT IN PIXELS

NEH investments in the digital humanities make it possible for a student to walk the corridors of the Temple of Karnak in ancient Egypt in virtual 3-D, or to visit the 1964–65 World's Fair held in New York. Spectral imaging has been used to create an online critical edition of explorer David Livingstone's previously unreadable field diary.

GENERATING PRIVATE SUPPORT

Almost \$2 billion in humanities support has been generated by the Challenge Grants program, which requires recipients to raise \$3 or \$4 in outside funds for every federal dollar they receive.

HISTORY ON SCREEN AND IN TOWN

NEH-supported films, grounded in scholarly research, bring history alive. For example, twenty million Americans watched Ken Burns's seven-part *The War* (2007), and ten million saw *The Abolitionists* (2013). NEH also funds hundreds of exhibitions—not only blockbusters such as “King Tut” that make the wonders and heritage of other cultures accessible to the American public, but also smaller projects such as *Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War* that reach classrooms across the country.

KEEPING TEACHERS UP-TO-DATE

Seminars, institutes, and workshops give teachers the opportunity to refresh and deepen their knowledge about the humanities through intense study. In the past three years, more than 2,100 college teachers and 7,500 schoolteachers have participated in NEH-supported programs, to the benefit of more than one million students.

REACHING ACROSS THE NATION

Last year, state humanities councils, NEH's affiliates in the fifty states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories put on 16,800 reading and discussion programs, 6,500 literacy programs, 4,000 speakers bureau presentations, 5,400 conferences, 1,750 Chautauqua events, 24,000 media programs, and 7,300 technology, preservation, and local history events. The 56 councils also sponsored 2,300 exhibitions.